

House Resolution 20 - Introduced

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H.R. _____ S.R. _____

1 1 HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. ____
1 2 BY REICHERT, BERRY, THEDE, H. MILLER,
1 3 FORD, BURT, ABDUL=SAMAD, and KAUFMANN
1 4 A Resolution to honor the life and work of Alexander G.
1 5 Clark.
1 6 WHEREAS, as a young man, Alexander G. Clark settled
1 7 in Bloomington, Iowa, now Muscatine, and made it his
1 8 home for a half century; and
1 9 WHEREAS, in his lifetime, Mr. Clark was a barber,
1 10 an investor, an entrepreneur, an educator, a soldier,
1 11 a politician, an attorney, a newspaper publisher, a
1 12 statesman, and the United States ambassador to
1 13 Liberia; and
1 14 WHEREAS, Mr. Clark was the second African=American
1 15 to graduate from the University of Iowa Law School ==
1 16 the first being his own son; and
1 17 WHEREAS, Mr. Clark was a founder of the African
1 18 Methodist Episcopal Church of Muscatine and a founder
1 19 of Prince Hall Masonry throughout the Midwest; and
1 20 WHEREAS, Mr. Clark was a pioneer in humanitarian
1 21 and social justice issues in Muscatine, Iowa; and
1 22 WHEREAS, Mr. Clark led the legal fight to
1 23 desegregate Iowa's schools in 1867=1868; and
1 24 WHEREAS, Mr. Clark and his associates, white and
1 25 black, advanced the interests of all people in
1 26 establishing legal recognition for equal rights in the
1 27 State of Iowa; and
1 28 WHEREAS, Mr. Clark traveled the country speaking
1 29 for a diverse and egalitarian future for the United
1 30 States of America; and
2 1 WHEREAS, Mr. Clark accepted an appointment and
2 2 served his country as Minister and Consul=General to
2 3 the Black Free State of Liberia; and
2 4 WHEREAS, Mr. Clark became known as the "Colored
2 5 Orator of the West," and the oration at his funeral
2 6 declared him "one of the underground railroad
2 7 engineers and conductors, whose field was the South,
2 8 whose depot was the North, and whose freight was human
2 9 souls"; and
2 10 WHEREAS, Mr. Clark was buried in 1891 at Greenwood
2 11 Cemetery in Muscatine; and
2 12 WHEREAS, February 25, 2009, is the 183rd
2 13 anniversary of the birth of this equal rights pioneer;
2 14 NOW THEREFORE,
2 15 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
2 16 That the House of Representatives recognizes the week
2 17 of February 22 to February 28, 2009, as Alexander G.
2 18 Clark Week to honor his work for justice and fairness
2 19 and his memory as a truly great Iowan.
2 20 LSB 2127HH 83
2 21 jr/rj/14.1